

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Regular Board of Education Meeting – November 19, 2013

The Board of Education of School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, met on the 19th day of November, 2013, in regular session at the Educational Service Center, according to the rules of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the president of the Board, Una McGeough, who presided. Members of the Board were present as follows:

Present: Amy Anson
Katrina Bell-Jordan
Richard Berk
Todd Fingerman (arrived at 7:33 p.m.)
Una McGeough
Mark Weil
Darius Zakeri (arrived at 7:33 p.m.)

Absent: None

Administrative staff members were present as follows:

Frances McTague, Superintendent
Andy Carpenter, Old Orchard Junior High School Assistant Principal
Leslie Gordon, Highland School Principal
Robyn Hawley, Old Orchard Junior High School Principal
Laurie Heinz, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Beth Millard, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Susan O’Neil, Jane Stenson School Principal
Irina Ziemann, Director of Information Technology

Absent: Jac McBride, Director of Special Services
Randy Needlman, Devonshire School Principal

Visitors:

Ramadan Alekic	Vicky Gavas	Molly Rose Kilgore
Ryan Berry	Meghan Halkias	Tanee Lalarde
Maggie Bohlin	Colette Halverson	Molly Layman
Alexandra Burrell	Mary Helmstetter	Rebecca Lynch
Vince D’Amico	Margot Hughes	Andrea Meighan
Natalie Dandino	Colleen Kearns	Sarah Newcorn
Owen Douglas	Fauze Khan	Lynn Rubin
Katie Eckert	Musarrat Khan	Anne Rutherford
Kristy Frick		Rosie Sarmunwong

1. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

President McGeough asked Board members and administrators at the head table to introduce themselves. There were no comments.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Member Weil, seconded by Member Berk, that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Agenda, which contained the following:

- a. Minutes
 - Regular Board of Education Meeting – October 22, 2013
 - Closed Board of Education Meeting – October 22, 2013
 - Closed Board of Education Meeting – November 12, 2013
- b. Personnel: Teacher Resignation: L. Goyco; Classified Resignation: M. Schroeder; Classified Appt: A. Goepfinger
- c. Financial Reports
- d. Bill Summary
- e. Review of Closed Meeting Minutes:
 - Transfer to Open Meeting Minutes: 2/19/13, 3/19/13, 4/16/13, 5/21/13, 6/18/13, 7/16/13, and 7/16/13; Retain as Closed Meeting Minutes: 2/20/07, 7/21/09, 11/17/09, and 9/21/10; Destruction of Verbatim Record of Closed Meeting Minutes: 12/20/11, 1/17/12, 3/20/12, 4/17/12, 5/15/12, and 6/19/12

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:
AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Berk, McGeough, Weil
NAY: None.
Motion carried.

3. HIGHLAND SCHOOL'S *KINDNESS COUNTS CLUB* PRESENTATION

Highland Principal Leslie Gordon and several Highland fourth grade students described the origin of their anti-bullying club when they were in third grade and how the group has evolved. They provided an introduction to the public service video which was created by the group and viewed by the Board and audience. President McGeough thanked the presenters.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF SHARP CORNER SCHOOL SALE

It was moved by Member Zakeri, seconded by Member Anson, to accept the bid submitted by MCC in the amount of \$2,151,785 for the purchase of the Sharp Corner School property according to the Terms and Conditions of Sale approved by the Board at the September 17, 2013 meeting.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:
AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Berk, Fingerman, McGeough, Weil, Zakeri
NAY: None.
Motion carried.

5. 2012-13 AUDIT REPORT

Cheryden Jurgensen, with the District's independent audit firm Eder, Casella & Co., presented the annual audit report and management letter to the Board. She indicated that the audit did not identify any material weakness. She highlighted key schedules and noted that a Single Audit was required because the district expended over \$500,000 in federal monies, resulting in additional testing of internal procedures. She commended the District for its prudent management in building solid reserves, especially in light of the uncertainty of state funding. President McGeough thanked Ms. Jurgensen for her report.

6. 2013 SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT

Old Orchard Junior High Assistant Principal Carpenter reviewed the 2013 Summer School program and recommendations for the 2014 program which include moving the program from the beginning of summer to the three weeks before school starts and keeping the financial structure the same. He noted that a significant majority of parents indicated a preference for the change which is also supported by teachers. He also noted that the district will be required to provide either breakfast or lunch under the guidelines of the National School Lunch Program during any summer program which could present some logistical issues. President McGeough thanked Mr. Carpenter for his report.

7. PERFORMANCE SCORECARD UPDATE

Superintendent McTague reviewed the recently retitled District 68 Data Dashboard and noted changes that have been made since it was last reviewed by the Board. The Board made a few more suggestions for improvement. When these improvements are made, the Dashboard will be published on the District website.

8. SUMMER 2014 FACILITY UPGRADES

Assistant Superintendent Millard reviewed the plans for summer, 2014 facility projects. The project is primarily focused on security improvements including secure vestibules at all buildings which require small additions to Devonshire and Highland, video surveillance, panic systems, bullet resistant window film and a number of other items. The project also includes a variety of items on the long range facility plan, new tile work and MPR windows at Highland, and refurbishing of the running track at Old Orchard Junior High. There was discussion about the project and concerns about the impact on building fund reserves. It was agreed that Ms. Millard will provide additional cost information to the Board in December. President McGeough thanked Ms. Millard for her report.

9. LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Assistant Superintendent Millard presented the five-year financial projections. Ms. Millard explained that the district's financial health continues to be impacted by the economy, uncertainty of state funding, the tax cap, business property tax appeals, and escalating costs.

The disparity between relatively flat revenue increases and increasing costs has been mitigated by the amount of new property growth in the district over the past several years; however, the operating deficit is projected to grow over the next five years. She noted that minor changes can have a major impact over a number of years and that there are a number of unknown factors that could significantly impact the long range projections, making prudent planning to preserve financial stability for future students a high priority for the district. President McGeough thanked Ms. Millard for her report.

10. PROPERTY TAX INFORMATION

Director of Business Services Berry presented information on property tax assessments in the district. He noted that the balance between residential and commercial property has changed significantly over the past ten years with homeowners picking up a greater portion of the tax bill as a result of commercial property tax reductions and changes in the assessment process. He also reviewed EAV and tax rate comparisons for township districts. President McGeough thanked Mr. Berry for his report.

11. PROPERTY TAX BILL COMPARISON

Director of Business Services Berry presented some comparisons on the tax bill for the typical homeowner in the district and noted that District 219 is the biggest single component of the tax bill. He also presented historical information on property tax assessments and rates.

12. 2013 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY

It was moved by Member Anson, seconded by Member Zakeri, to adopt an estimated tax levy for the tax year 2013 in the amounts as follows:

the sum of	\$18,900,000	for educational purposes, and
the sum of	2,520,000	for operations and maintenance purposes, and
the sum of	830,000	for transportation purposes, and
the sum of	95,000	for working cash purposes, and
the sum of	505,000	for Illinois Municipal Retirement purposes, and
the sum of	605,000	for social security and Medicare purposes, and
the sum of	0	for fire prevention, safety, environmental, and energy conservation purposes, and
the sum of	225,000	for tort immunity purposes, and
the sum of	900,000	for special education purposes

on the equalized assessed valuation of all the taxable property in School District 68, Cook County, Illinois, for the year 2013.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Berk, Fingerman, McGeough, Weil, Zakeri

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

14. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

The Board reviewed several communication items.

15. MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Member Berk, seconded by Member Fingerman, to move to closed session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss matters of collective bargaining per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), and matters of personnel, as per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Berk, Fingerman, McGeough, Weil, Zakeri

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened at 11:55 p.m.

16. ADJOURN THE MEETING

It was moved by Member Fingerman, seconded by Member Bell-Jordan, to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 p.m.

Upon roll call, the members voted as follows:

AYE: Anson, Bell-Jordan, Berk, Fingerman, McGeough, Weil, Zakeri

NAY: None.

Motion carried.

Beth Millard, Board Secretary

Una McGeough, President